

Funds will go to Sullivan County Dental Health Project & Catskill Regional Medical Center

Washington, DC - Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today announced that he's secured a final agreement between House and Senate leaders to provide \$700,000 to a local hospital and dental health initiative in order to make capital upgrades that will improve the quality of their care and expand the scope of local health services. The funds will go to the Sullivan County Dental Health Project (\$400,000) and Catskill Regional Medical Center (\$300,000). The congressman requested the funds as part of the fiscal year 2010 Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations bill. The House is expected to approve the funds tomorrow followed by quick Senate approval. President Obama is then expected to sign the bill into law.

"By investing in the equipment used by these important health care service providers, we are helping to improve the quality of care they provide to patients across the Catskill region," Hinchey said. "I was very pleased to secure this funding, which will help improve the health and quality of life for people throughout our region. The funding will extend dental care in Sullivan County to those who need it most and renovate the emergency room at the county's hospital."

The Sullivan County Dental Health Project, a non-profit partnership of Hudson River HealthCare and the PRASAD Children's Dental Health Program, will use the funding to increase access to dental health care services for low-income adults and children in Sullivan County. The money will help pay for new dental chairs and equipment at the Hudson River HealthCare Clinic in Monticello and also help to upgrade or replace the PRASAD Program's aging mobile dental clinic that serves school children throughout Sullivan County and parts of Ulster County.

Catskill Regional Medical Center will use the funds Hinchey secured for its emergency room (ER) expansion and renovation project. The current ER was originally designed in 1977 and is in need of a major overhaul. The ER was designed to treat 17,000 patients annually, but currently provides 26,000 patients with care. The construction project will expand ER facility beds from 13 to 20 and is expected to provide 80 local construction jobs.